

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/635,869 | HULL, RICHARD |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | CUONG H. NGUYEN | 3661 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 1/09/06 (the amendment).
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,7-12,18-22; they are renumbered as 1-12. Formal drawings (8/05/03) are accepted by the examiner.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

CHN
 CUONG H. NGUYEN
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit: 3661

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the amendment received on 1/09/2006.

Status of the claims

2. Claims 1, 7-12, and 18-22 are pending. Claims 2-6, 13-17, and 23-29 are canceled.

Drawings

3. 4 figures of formal drawings were acceptable by the examiner on 8/05/2003.

Allowable Subject Matter & Reasons for Allowance

4. Independent claims 1, and 12 are patentable over the closest reference of Leonard et al., because they do not anticipate nor fairly and reasonably teach a method or an arrangement for guiding a user along a target path, besides other limitations, comprising:

- beacon-location determining means for determining locations at which to position multiple virtual audio beacons such that the audio beacons together form a succession of beacons with each beacon being successively further down said target path onward from the user, as specifically claimed.

In Leonard et al's reference, a step of using multiple virtual audio beacons to form a succession of beacons is not disclosed; and the claimed "target path" is different from Leonard et al.'s current direction of vehicle's movement.

5. Claims 7-11, and 18-22 are allowed because they are dependent on claims 1, and 12.

Conclusion

6. Claims 1, 7-12, and 18-22 are patentable.

Claims 1, and 7 are renumbered as claims 7, and 12.

Claims 12, 18-22 are renumbered as claims 1-6.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cuonghnguyen
CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661